

Draft
Petaluma Regional Library Advisory Board
Sonoma County Library
MINUTES

Wednesday, APRIL 27, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Petaluma Regional Library
100 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952

The meeting was held via teleconference on Zoom

ATTENDANCE: LAB Vice Chair Tim May; LAB Members Jan Everidge, Gerry Groves, Andrew Heller, Carol King, Karen Petersen, Emily Roeder, Errol Stevenson, Mia Wade; Library Commissioner Paul Heavenridge; City Liaison Mayor Teresa Barrett, Friends President Rory Keller, Library Division Manager Barbara Maes, Branch Manager Diana Spaulding.

ABSENT: LAB member Leslie Goodrich; Supervising Librarian Celma Luster.

1. CONVENING: Vice Chair Tim May called the meeting to order at 4:06
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF April 27, 2022: The LAB approved the previous meeting minutes of April 27.
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No written or verbal comments received.
4. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - 4.1 Appreciating Marie Hinton – LAB members shared personal appreciations of LAB Chair Marie Hinton who died on March 30, 2022. Marie was remembered for: her long service on the LAB since the 1980's; how she combined a love of books and love of children to have a major impact on peoples' lives; her consistent attendance at LAB meetings despite personal illness and family issues; her positive attitude and great energy at meetings; and her frequently shared appreciation of Petaluma Library staff. The Press Democrat wrote an [article](#) about her years of service to the Old Adobe Elementary School on April 22, 2022. The LAB will adjourn our meeting in memory of and gratitude to Marie for her many contributions, and will discuss how best to honor her.
 - 4.2 Nationwide book challenges, responses by SCL, and favorite "banned books" – LAB members shared reflections on the topic. Paul: Enjoyed the April 9 virtual panel with Project Censored and the challenged authors (video soon available on [LumaCON's own YouTube channel](#)). Tim: The freedom to read is in the DNA of the Sonoma County Library; he recalls a story told at the funeral of David Sabsay, the first director and founder of the SCL, recounting Sabsay in the stacks stopping the sheriff from removing a book from the library; also, the pressure to ban books comes from both sides of

political spectrum. Rory: Concerned with nationwide effort to remove books about who we are—what can we do to help? Mia: Brooklyn Public Library now allows any teen nationwide to access ebooks on gender, sexuality and race which is especially important to teens who live in conservative areas. Could SCL do something similar? Diana: SCL has promoted challenged books in several ways, including featuring “always available” ebooks in Libby and Hoopla, but our contracts with vendors limit use to people with addresses in our service area. What are peoples’ favorite challenged/banned books? Rory: To Kill a Mockingbird; Mia: The Hate U Give; Tim: Where the Sidewalk Ends; Barbara: And Tango Makes 3; Diana: Gender Queer; Gerry: all her favorite books are on the banned/challenged list! Jan: The Watsons go to Birmingham; Paul: Of Mice and Men.

4.3 Status of LAB officers—Since Marie Hinton is no longer the LAB Chair, Tim asks if others are LAB members are interested in that position. If not, he will serve.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Election of LAB officer—Approved Tim to serve as Chair through his term on the LAB. Discussed election of Vice Chair and determined to table election until next meeting to allow people to consider nominations.

5.2 Honoring Marie Hinton with a Library Tree leaf—Discussed various options of raising funds to honor Marie with a leaf on the Library Tree without using public funds. Agreed that Tim would write a letter to the Hinton family asking if donations in Marie’s honor could be directed to the Friends of the Petaluma Library for this purpose. Rory noted that the plan involves some obligation for thank-you notes be written to donors and Marie’s family, and Carol and Diana offered to assist.

6. REPORTS AND UPDATES

Reports and updates on library governance, management programs, services and support group activities as well as relevant City council activities. All items are for discussion only.

6.1 Library Commissioner’s Report—Paul noted that Director Hammond will retire in July 2022. Tim asked that Paul express the LAB’s gratitude to Director Hammond for her steady leadership in the past three years.

6.2 Library Director’s Report—Barbara noted the arrival of CA State Park passes which offer free entry (one per branch but two more coming); COVID protocols changed 4/1/22 and masks are now optional for SCL staff; next year’s budget will include staffing for Sunday afternoon hours at all regional libraries, effective date TBD due to hiring process.

6.3 Branch Manager’s Report—Report presented via email. Highlights: The City of Petaluma has applied for a \$1.8 million grant from the State Library and awaits a decision due mid-June which will determine the size and scope of a refresh. Sculptor and writer Mary Fuller McChesney’s archive of papers was donated to the Petaluma History Room and is now being processed. The library is purchasing three MFM lion head sculptures for the children’s garden with funds from our generous FOL. LumaCon!

Live is this Saturday, April 30 from 10 am – 4 pm at the Petaluma Fairgrounds featuring artists' alley, vendors, cosplay, a visit from the BiblioBus, and more.

Erroll was interested to see patron entry numbers, and Diana explained that a people counter had been installed several years ago at the front door.

6.4 Friends of the Petaluma Library Report—Rory noted the bookstore reopens 5/2/22 with limited hours. Tim asked about book donations and Rory noted the storage dilemma due to uncertainty of upcoming refresh precludes accepting donations now.

6.5 City Council Liaison Report –Teresa says that City Hall has begun hybrid meetings with an in-person option. Paul: his Library Commissioner term is up in July 2022 and the City will need to advertise the opening. He is planning on applying. The City Clerk should be notified in May because appointments for City committees and commissions occur in June. Paul reminds us that Marie's position is an open spot on the LAB now.

7. CROMWELL TRUST and HOPKINS TRUST

Review of quarterly reports on special funds designated for the Petaluma Regional Library.

Balances: Cromwell \$ 635,340; Hopkins \$900,372. Mia asked for more information on the funds, and Tim and Diana explained they are gifts from donors with restrictions on the use of the principal. Interest on the funds can be spent for the benefit of the library, and generally the branch manager makes requests and the LAB approves the spending. For many years all accumulated interest was set aside for the library refresh project, but now monies can once again be spent for other purposes.

8. ADVISORY BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

Tim asked for comments from youth members Mia and Andrew. Andrew wonders about the teen volunteering options. Diana explained there are many virtual tasks and a few in-person options such as special events like the LumaCon Comic Convention this Saturday; teen services librarian Karen Ballerini is the person for teens to contact.

Tim passed along feedback from a member of the public requesting more and better, bigger signage in the library. Diana: Yes, this will happen in the refresh, date TBD.

9. ADJOURNMENT—Meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday July 27, 2022 at 4:00 pm